

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 /090 W  
-----047595 251246Z /72

R 250920Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8360  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5372

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: US BUSINESSMAN PROVIDES ASSEMENT OF IRAN JAYA SECURITY  
SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS JUST RETURNED  
FROM SEVERAL MONTHS IN IRAN JAYA HAS INFORMED US THAT  
CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION THERE IS GOOD, AND WITH EX-  
CEPTION OF TWO "SMALL" AREAS GOI HAS SECURITY CONTROL OF  
THE PROVINCE. MAIN FACTOR IN GOVERNMENT SUCCESS REPORTEDLY  
HAS BEEN LOSS OF FERVOR BY TRIBESMEN DUE TO OPM FAILURE  
TO DELIVER ON PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE. LONG-TERM THREAT  
TO GOI CONTROL DUE TO IRIANESE DISSATISFACTION WITH GOI  
CONTROL REMAINS. END SUMMARY.

2. FREEPORT INDONESIA EXECUTIVE AND FORMER FSO SELWYNN  
COATES WHO HAS BEEN IN IRIAN JAYA OVER PAST FEW MONTHS  
CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 24 PRIOR HIS RETURN TO NEW YORK  
AND PROVIDED ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION  
IN IRIAN JAYA. ACCORDING TO COATES GOI HAS BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL IN REASSERTING ITS CONTROL IN ALL BUT TWO  
RELATIVELY SMALL AREAS OF PROVINCE. ORGANISASI  
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PAPUA MERDEKA (OPM) IS NOT CONFINED TO ONE OPERATIONAL  
AREA DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE PNG BORDER BEGINNING  
ABOUT 50 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF JAYAPURA AND RUNNING  
APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOMETERS TOWARDS THE SOUTH; OTHER  
UNCONTROLLED AREA IN WHICH OPM ELEMENTS APPARENTLY  
OPERATE IS EAST OF THE FREEPORT MINE SITE "AROUND  
TSINGA AND RUNNING EAST TO PUSINGARA, NORTH OF AKIMUGA."

(WE HAV BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE ONLY AKIMUGA ON OUR DE-  
TAILED MAPS OF IRAN JAYA, IT IS AN AIR STRIP AT  
4 DEGREES 40 MINUTES S AND 137 DEGREES 40 MINUTES E.)

3. COATES OPINED THAT GOVERNMENT SUCCESS IN REASSERTING  
CONTROL BASICALLY DUE TO THREE FACTORS: (1) SECURITY  
OPERATIONS, (2) CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS, AND (3) DISALLUSION  
ON PART OF TRIBESMAN IN OPM ABILITY TO DELIVER ON  
PROMISES. QUOTING MISSIONARIES, COATES SAID THAT THIS  
LAST FACTOR IS PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT. MIS-  
SIONARIES WHO SPOKE TO COATES (AND WHO IN THE PAST  
HAVE MADE THIS SAME POINT TO EMBOFFS) COMPARED DANI  
UPRISING TO CARGO CULT/MILLEANIAL TYPE MOVEMENTS WHICH  
HAVE SWEEPED AREAS OF IRIAN JAYA AND MELANESIA IN THE  
PAST. WITH PASSAGE OF TIME EXTRAVAGANT PROMISES MADE  
BY OPM HAVE BEEN SEEN TO BE FALSE, AND THE RELIGIOUS-  
LIKE FERVOR HAS BURNED ITSELF OUT. WITH REGARD TO  
CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS, MISSIONARIES COMPLAINED TO  
COATES THAT GOI IS CONCENTRATING ON TRIBESMEN WHO HAD  
COOPERATED WITH OPM, PARTICULARLY ON A GROUP OF  
SEVERAL HUNDRED DANIS WHO ARE LEAD BY TWO BROTHERS,  
MARTIN AND MARTIUS TABU, AND WHO SURRENDERED TO THE  
GOI EARLIER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE MISIONARIES  
THE GOI IS NEGLECTING OTHER DANI REFUGEES, WHO NEVER  
COOPERATED WITH THE OPM, AND THAT SOME 5-10,000 DANIS  
ARE LIVING IN NEAR FAMINE CONDITIONS AND MANY COULD  
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DIE IF THE GOI DOES NOT PROVIDE RELIEF.

4. COMMENT: COATES SAID, AND WE AGREE, THAT DESPITE  
THE SUCCESS OF THE GOI IN REASSERTING CONTROL OVER  
IRIAN JAYA THIS TIME, THE PROBLEM OF IRIANESE DIS-  
SATISFACTION WITH THE GOI REMAINS A CHRONIC ONE. THE  
OPM, DESPITE TRIBAL AND LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES, HAS  
DEMONSTRATED AN ABILITY TO MOBILIZE THE HIGHLANDS  
PEOPLE, AND WITH INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF METHODS  
AND LEADERSHIP COULD, ESPECIALLY IF IT OBTAINED SUB-  
STANTIAL OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, PRESENT A REAL LONG-TERM  
THREAT TO GOI CONTROL OF IRAN JAYA.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Subject:** US BUSINESSMAN PROVIDES ASSEMENT OF IRAN JAYA SECURITY SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINR, ID, (COATES, SELWYNN)  
**To:** STATE  
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